MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

14 MAY 1981

Lebanese Crisis

Military Situation--Damascus radio, citing a Syrian military spokesman reported that Arab Deterrent Forces (ADF) downed an Israeli reconnaissance plane in the southern Al-Biqa' region on 14 May. Jerusalem radio confirmed that a pilotless plane was shot down in the area. Voice of Lebanon radio, citing eyewitness reports, said Syrian batteries fired SAM-6 missiles at three Israeli planes over the Al-Biqa' valley on 14 May, downing one and forcing an airman to parachute to earth, where he was captured by ADF forces. However, in a later report the radio said the eyewitnesses had mistaken the debris of a drone for a parachutist. On the other hand, Beirut radio, citing news agency sources, said an Israeli pilot was forced to bail out. An earlier Jerusalem radio report, referring to a claim by Damascus television that Syria shot down an Israeli drone on 12 May, said wreckage shown by Syrian television was of an Israeli drone shot down over a year ago.

Fighting broke out anew in the Sannin region, according to radio reports. Clandestine Voice of Palestine said ADF and joint forces mopped up the perimeter of the French redoubt on top of Mount Sannin "once and for all." The radio had earlier reported that the Phalangists and Lebanese Army units had "escalated" the situation in the Sannin region, shelling National Movement positions from the Al-Mazar hills. Voice of Lebanon reported that ADF forces shelled the French redoubt and nearby villages and later reported intensive sniper fire in Zahlah. Beirut was quiet apart from sporadic gunfire and explosions, according to Beirut radio. However, Voice of Lebanon reported that a bomb explosion outside the Syrian Social Nationalist Party office in Ash-Shiyah killed 5 and wounded 40. A group describing itself as "guards of the Iranian revolution" claimed responsibility, the radio said. Meanwhile, Beirut airport resumed activity, Beirut radio reported, with a small number of passengers arriving and departing.

Heavy artillery exchanges erupted in the south on 13 May and continued today, according to radio reports. Voice of Palestine said Israeli and Christian militia shelled Palestinian positions in the south, and it reported that Israeli and Christian militia forces carried out a military maneuver in the border strip. Israeli artillery resumed the shelling on 14 May, the radio said. According to Voice of Hope radio, the Palestinians fired at a Christian patrol and shelled Marj 'Uyun yesterday evening. Reporting on southern Lebanon for IDF radio, an Israeli correspondent said the Palestinians have profited from the recent lull in fighting, repairing the heavy damage incurred through IDF shelling and reoccupying positions they abandoned 2 weeks ago during Israeli Air Force attacks.

According to Voice of Palestine, the Joint Command of the Lebanese National Movement and the Palestinian Resistance held a meeting that affirmed the need to direct all guns toward Israel. The joint command decided to establish an operations room for the National Movement, the Amal Movement and the Palestinian forces to monitor the daily situation in the south. In a number of other resolutions, the joint command stressed the need for greater unity and an end to infighting among the Palestinian and leftist groups.

Syrian Exercises--According to Damascus television, armored and mechanized units took part in a "successful" maneuver inside Syria under "complicated" land and air conditions. The report also mentioned successfully timed landing operations by paratroopers.

Habib Mission--Continuing his shuttle diplomacy, U.S. Special Envoy Philip Habib returned to Beirut on 13 May, where he held talks with President Ilyas Sarkis and Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus, Beirut radio reported. Habib left for Damascus in the evening, the radio said, and will meet with President Hafiz al-Asad today.

Peres Interview--After meeting yesterday with Special Envoy Habib, Israeli Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres said in an interview with Jerusalem radio that he does not accept any limitation of Israeli air activity over Lebanon as part of a U.S. peace plan but he

is "not sure" that this is an issue in the negotiations. Criticizing Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin for "emotional generalizations" and "embarrassing declarations," Peres said the Syrians have been cruel in Lebanon but have not been practicing genocide. Israel should be "firm in its opinion but cautious in its language," Peres said, avoiding "fantastic proclamations" such as those made by Begin at the Herut conference. Reiterating his opposition to the presence of Syrian missiles in the Al-Biqa' valley, Peres said the issue should be handled with maximum sophistication. Israel should provide the Lebanese Christians with assistance, not fight in their place, he added.

Syrian-Lebanese Contacts--President al-Asad and other Syrian leaders met in Damascus with Lebanese Chamber of Deputies Speaker Kamil al-As'ad, Damascus radio repoted. In a statement reported by the radio, Kamil al-As'ad said both Lebanon and Syria aim to save Lebanon, and he praised the deployment of Syrian missiles inside Lebanon as a humanitarian act. Beirut radio reported that in a telephone conversation Presidents Sarkis and al-As'ad discussed current diplomatic efforts to find political solutions to the crisis and agreed on the need to continue the reconciliation process.

Syrian Comment--Damascus radio, in a commentary on Syrian determination to counter Israeli aggression, said the nation is ready to repulse all attacks and threats directed against it and is well aware of what the cost will be. The necessary calculations and preparations have been made, the commentary asserted.

Arab People's Conference--Damascus radio reported that the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Conference, meeting in Damascus, has called on the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front to convene an urgent meeting for the adoption of measures to place the front's resources at the service of Syria, the Lebanese nationalist movement and the Palestinian revolution.

'Arafat Activities--Voice of Palestine radio reported that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat chaired a meeting of the Palestinian revolution's Higher Military Council that discussed the situation in the Lebanese and Arab arenas. Later, according to Damascus television, he held talks with Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam in a meeting attended by members of the PLO leadership and officials of the Lebanese National Movement and Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. Voice of Palestine radio said today that 'Arafat has departed on a tour of North Africa.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Mediation Efforts--Tehran radio reported that Bangladesh President Ziaur Rahman and Islamic Conference Secretary General Habib Chatti arrived in Tehran and met separately with President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr. The radio's Arabic service quoted Bani-Sadr as saying after the two meetings that the new proposal for ending the Iran-Iraq war differs only slightly from previous ones but will be discussed with Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni and the Supreme Defense Council. It also mentioned that Chatti met with Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i and that Chatti and Rahman later departed.

Military Situation--In a communique broadcast by Tehran radio, the Iranian Armed Forces gave details of military activity on the southern and western fronts and mentioned that Iranian units fired upon Iraqi positions on the banks of the Shatt al-'Arab waterway. The armed forces also said that part of Fao's oil installations was set ablaze and admitted losses due to Iraqi shelling of Dezful. An Islamic Revolution Guards Corps communique, carried by Tehran radio, mentioned clashes in Darkhovin, Abadan and the occupied sector of Khuninshahr in the south and on the Maymak front in the west. Baghdad radio carried an Iraqi Armed Forces General Command communique that reported slight losses on both sides.

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FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT ON PEACE INITIATIVES

LD141342 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 14 May 81

[Text] Kabul, 13 May (BAKHTAR)--Shah Mohammad Dost, minister of foreign affairs, addressed a press conference for local and foreign journalists at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan here today.

The foreign minister replied to the questions of journalists regarding the proposals of May 14, 1980 by the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan on the normalization of relations with Iran and Pakistan.

At the beginning of the press conference, the minister of foreign affairs read the following statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the DRA:

Guided by the lofty principles of the April Revolution, particularly of its new evolutionary stage, the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan staunchly and steadily pursues the foreign policy of peace and peaceful-coexistence, all-sided cooperation with all the countries of the world.

Since the beginning of the new evolutionary stage of the April Revolution, the DRA has undertaken a number of important foreign policy initiatives and steps aimed at the normalization of the situation in the area of southwest Asia. It is an open secret that the situation in our region has aggravated as a result of the imperialist and hegemonist plots and machinations against the Afghan revolution.

These quarters use the territory of the neighboring countries as a springboard for the armed provocations and aggression against the DRA. They arm, equip and train the bands of anti-Afghan mercenaries on the territory of the neibhboring countries and daily send them to Afghanistan to commit barbarous acts of violence against the Afghan people.

Willing to normalize by peaceful means the relations with the neighboring countries and striving to put an end to the anti-Afghan activities from their territories, the DRA Government a year ago, on the 14th of May 1980, put forward a set of proposals aimed at a political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan and the normalization of relations with Pakistan and Iran.

The DRA Government suggested to the Government of Iran to hold direct negotiations and to work out an appropriate agreement so as to promote the development of friendly relations and all-round mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries. The Government of the DRA also proposed to the Government of Pakistan to hold the negotiations aimed at working out bilateral agreements on the normalization of relations between the DRA and Pakistan.

In order to resolve the problem of the Afghan natinals staying temporarily for various reasons on the territory of Pakistan and other neighboring countries, the Government of the DRA called upon the authorities of Pakistan and other neighboring countries to facilitate the free return of such persons to Afghanistan. It expressed the readiness to discuss the questions pertaining to this problem in the course of bilateral negotiations. In accordance with the general amnesty, the DRA Government guaranteed security, freedom, and the choice of domicile to the returning Afghans and provided them with all necessary conditions for living and fruitful employment.

The DRA Government also proposed that apart from a package of bilateral accords between Afghanistan and Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran, appropriate political guarantees on behalf of some states acceptable to Afghanistan and other parties to the bilateral accords should become an integral part of the political settlement.

Among the possible guarantors, the Soviet Union and the United States were mentioned. As far as guarantees on behalf of the United States were concerned, they should comprise a clearly expressed obligation not to wage any subversive activities against Afghanistan, including any such activities from the territory of the third country.

The Government of the DRA declared that within the context of a political settlement, the question of the withdrawal of the Soviet limited military contingent from Afghanistan had to be resolved. It emphasised that the cessation and guaranteed non-recurrence of military invasions and other forms of interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan would eliminate the reasons which prompted the DRA to request the USSR to send this contingent to its territory.

Stating its readiness to hold bilateral talks with neighbouring countries without any preconditions, the DRA Government proceeded from the presumption that their conduct would not be accompanied by the continuation of the hostile activities against Afghanistan and that the practical measures should be taken to terminate the armed and any other interference in the affairs of Afghanistan by all the states involved in such interference.

The constructive programme of political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan advanced by the DRA Government on the 14th of May 1980 was widely acclaimed by all progressive and peaceloving countries of the world. It was positively assessed by some realistic and sober-minded statesmen in the Western capitalist countries.

During the year which elapsed since the statement of 14th May 1980, the Government of the DRA persistently and vigorously pushed forward with its peaceful initiative and undertook many concrete steps and measures to implement its proposals aimed at the normalization of the relations with the neighbouring countries.

The Government of the DRA appealed directly to the governments of Pakistan and Iran and invited them to start as soon as possible bilateral negotiations in order to resolve the problems which divide us. It thoroughly explained and publicised its proposals at all important international forums: at the session of the United Nations General Assembly, at the Conference of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Non-Aligned Countries in February 1981, and other meetings. These proposals were reiterated in the DRA Ministry of Foreign Affairs statement in connection with the meeting of the Heads of States of the Organization of Islamic Conference held in At-Ta'if last February. The peaceful initiative of the DRA Government was further elaborated in the statement by the DRA and the USSR on October 16th 1980 and was fully supported by the Soviet Government.

The DRA Government has never stepped one inch back from its proposals of the 14th of May 1980, which in itself is a clear cut testimony to the consistency, principled character and honesty of the foreign policy of a new revolutionary Afghanistan.

It must be noted that the Government of Pakistan on several occasions expressed, though in rather vague terms, its preparedness to have contacts and hold talks with the DRA. But every time the Government of the DRA accepted these overtures, the Pakistani authorities put forward new conditions which make impossible the realization of the Afghan-Pakistani dialogue.

One cannot avoid an impression that the Pakistani authorities are not so much interested in the negotiations with the Afghan Government but in the propaganda exercises around this issue. Sometimes they make one step forward and then make two or three steps back.

As far as Afghan side is concerned, it went very far to meet half way the wishes of Pakistani authorities in order to overcome the difficulties referred to by them. The DRA Government is open minded and is ready to discuss constructive proposals pertaining to the political settlement of the situation in the area and the normalization of relations between our two countries.

Upon arriving in New Delhi to take part in the conference of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Non-Aligned Countries last February, the minister of foreign affairs of the DRA, Shah Mohammad Dost, put it very clearly that Afghanistan is ready to have a dialogue with Pakistan and Iran without any preconditions.

He emphasized that no one should have any doubt with regard to our sincere desire for holding talks with them. In line with the principled policy of the DRA, the minister of foreign affairs was prepared to meet Pakistani and Iranian representatives in the presence of the United Nations secretary general, Dr Kurt Waldheim, or his representative. But so far there was no reaction of Pakistani and Iranian authorities to this flexible stand of the Afghan side.

It is evident from the recent events that the main obstacle on the way to the political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan is the policy of the aggressive imperialist circles of NATO, particularly the policy of the United States. The new American administration, headed by President R. Reagan, brazenly violating the basic norms of international law and the UN Charter, has openly sided with the Afghan counterrevolutionary bandits and promised to supply them with modern weapons and ammunition. It also negotiates a huge deal with Pakistani authorities to supply modern arms to Pakistan. In the light of the above, the oblique references in the communique of the session of the NATO council held on 4-5 May to the necessity of a political settlement around Afghanistan look like sheer hypocrisy and duplicity. These dishonest references are called to cover up the negative obstructionist line of the NATO aggressive circles with respect to the dialogue between Afghanistan and Pakistan. It is due to the imperialist pressure that Pakistani ruling circles until now did not respond to the peaceful initiatives of the DRA and have not made any practical steps toward a political settlement.

As far as the policy of the DRA Government with regard to political settlement is concerned, it remains consistent and constructive. In the speech delivered by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, president of the Revolutionary Council and the DRA prime minister on the eve of the third anniversary of the April Revolution, he said the following on this issue:

"We have taken the necessary steps and now it is up to the leaders of the neighbouring countries Iran and Pakistan as to what extent they ponder about their responsibilities towards the normalization of the situation in the region and realize the present situation and as to what practical answers they give to our proposals."

KARMAL CONGRATULATES MITTERRAND ON ELECTION

LD140652 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 14 May 81

[Text] Kabul, 13 May (BAKHTAR)--A congratulatory telegram was sent by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA CC, president of the Revolutionary Council and DRA prime minister, to Paris addressed to Francois Mitterand on his election as the president of France.

KARMAL'S SECRETARY REPORTEDLY KILLED BY GUERRILLAS

BK131153 Hong Kong AFP in English 1119 GMT 13 May 81

[Excerpts] Islamabad, 13 May (AFP)--Afghan President Babrak Karmal's Secretary Rehmat Khan and the newly-appointed governor of Kandahar were among government officials shot dead in guerrilla raids near Kabul last week, diplomatic sources here said today. Other sources said that the governor, named as H. Yatimi, was wounded on May 6 in Kandahar and died in a Kabul hospital three days later.

GANDHI RETURNS FROM VISIT TO SWITZERLAND, GULF

BK140717 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 May 81

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi returned to New Delhi last night after her 9-day visit to Switzerland, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates. Among those present at the airport to receive her were many Union ministers, some members of Parliament, party leaders and members of her family. [For materials on her tour of the Arabian Peninsula, including a 10 May KUNA interview and an 11 May joint statement issued on the prime minister's visit to Kuwait, see the Arabian Peninsula section of the 13 May Middle East and Africa DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.] Talking to newsmen, Mrs Gandhi said wherever she went during her tour she found friendship and goodwill for India. When a correspondent asked about India's policy toward France after the election of Mitterrand as president, Mrs Gandhi said there will be no change in the relations between the two countries. She expressed the hope that these will be even better. Thanking the people who came to receive her, Mrs Gandhi said she is sorry to hear of some disturbances in some parts of the country. Mrs Gandhi sought the cooperation of all in carrying the country forward on the path of peace and progress.

[Delhi Domestic Service in English at 0830 GMT on 14 May reports that "Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi has described her visit to Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates as a very successful visit. She was speaking to newsmen aboard the special aircraft on her journey back home from Dubayy last night. Mrs Gandhi said friendship cannot be taken for granted even though we have close ties with these countries. We have always supported the Arab cause, which they appreciate, but it is necessary to exchange views with the leaders. Otherwise, they get the other side of the picture on many matters, she added. Asked whether she thought that Rajiv Gandhi would make a successful politician, Mrs Gandhi replied: He has qualities to make a success of anything he does. She described him as a serious, sincere and deeply dedicated young person."]

ARMY CHIEF DISCUSSES PAKISTAN'S ARMS ACQUISITION

BK140919 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 14 May 81

[Text] Chief of the Army Staff Gen O.P. Malhotra has said: In view of the new and sophisticated weapons pouring into Pakistan, we have to remain alert to ward off any threat to the borders of our country. General Malhotra was speaking to newsmen in Srinagar yesterday. He said that of the 20 divisions of Pakistan, 18 are reported to have been deployed against India. He said: We have to take note of the changed scenario and plan accordingly.

GANDHI, REDDY CONGRATULATE MITTERRAND ON VICTORY

BK111621 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 May 81

[Text] President Sanjiva Reddy and Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi have felicitated Francois Mitterrand on his election as the new president of France. In his message, Reddy expressed confidence that cordial and close relations between the two countries would continue to develop. Mrs Gandhi also expressed the hope that the friendly relations between the two countries will continue to grow.

GONSALVES GOING TO MOSCOW FOR DISCUSSIONS

BK111554 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 May 81

[Text] Secretary in the External Affairs Ministry Eric Gonsalves leaves for Moscow later tonight to discuss bilateral matters and the international situation with Soviet officials. He will also make a routine inspection of the Indian Embassy in Moscow.

ZHAO ZIYANG, RAO TO BEGIN VISITS 1 JUN, 8 JUN

BK141025 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 14 May 81

[Text] Chinese Prime Minister Zhao Ziyang is to pay a 4-day official visit to Pakistan from 1 June at the invitation of President Mohammad Ziaul Haq. Zhao Zinyang's visit is a part of the continuous exchange of visits that have taken place at the highest level between the two countries, which enjoy relations of close, traditional friendship. Radio Pakistan's diplomatic correspondent says the two leaders are expected to hold wide-ranging talks on bilateral relations and on regional and international developments of concern to Pakistan and China.

[Karachi Domestic Service in English at 1005 GMT on 14 May also notes that "Indian External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao is to pay a 4-day visit to Pakistan from the 8th of next month. The visit will be in return for the Pakistan foreign minister's visit to India, which took place in July last year. The two foreign ministers are expected to discuss developments in bilateral relations as well as international and regional issues of mutual interest."]

COMMODITY TRADE PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH USSR 14 MAY

BK131530 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 May 81

[Text] The present trade relations between Pakistan and the Soviet Union were reviewed at a meeting between the Soviet trade mission and officials of the Commerce Ministry in Islamabad today. Soviet Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade Grishin led his delegation at the meeting, while the Pakistani delegation was led by the federal commerce secretary.

Both sides stressed the need to expand trade relations at the meeting and identified areas for development. They expressed satisfaction over the pace of implementation of the last agreement on barter trade, signed in Moscow in April last year. A new agreement between Pakistan and the Soviet Union is to be signed in Islamabad tomorrow.

[Karachi Domestic Service in English at 1005 GMT on 14 May reports: "Pakistan and the Soviet Union signed in Islamabad this morning the commodity exchange protocol for 1981 envisaging a total trade turnover of 71.2 million dollars, registering an increase of about 25 percent over the last year. Visiting Soviet Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade I.T. Grishin and Federal Commerce Secretary Izharul Haq signed the protocol on behalf of their respective countries. Letters were also exchanged between the two countries providing for repayment of Soviet credits through exports of Pakistani goods in 1981.

["Earlier, the Soviet deputy minister called on Finance Minister Ghulam Ishaq Khan. They discussed further promotion of trade between the two countries.

["The three-member Soviet delegation later left for Karachi on its way home."]

ZIAUR RAHMAN, CHATTI MEET WITH OFFICIALS, DEPART

Ziaur Rahman, Chatti Interviewed

GF131458 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 May 81

[Text] Bangladesh President Ziaur Rahman, in an interview with our correspondent, who asked him what he hoped to achieve during his visit to Iran, said: With thanks, I should say I am very happy to be in the sister country of Iran. During this visit, we will have friendly discussions with Iranian authorities, the results of which will be announced.

He was asked, with regard to his repeated trips, what progress had been made to resolve the war Iraq had imposed on Iran and if the aggressor had been determined. The Bangladesh president said: We have made comparatively good progress. As you know, we are trying our best, but it is very difficult. I should not say much on this matter.

Our correspondent asked Habib Chatti, the Islamic conference secretary general, if he had brought any new proposals since the objective of his trip was well known. He replied: We submitted previous proposals to the Iranian Government and forwarded some new ones on 1 April. We must discuss these matters with the Iranian Government.

Meetings With Bani-Sadr, Raja'i

GF131813 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 13 May 81

[Text] Bangladesh President Ziaur Rahman and Islamic Conference Secretary General Habib Chatti met with President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr in Tehran this afternoon. In a statement after the meeting, President Bani-Sadr said: It can generally be said that no new proposals have been offered. The new proposal differs only slightly from the previous ones and in no way obligates us. However, from our point of view, these proposals are a new development and must be discussed with the imam and the Supreme Defense Council.

Habib Chatti had talks with Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i this afternoon as part of the talks the delegation has been having with Iranian officials since it arrived in Tehran this morning to discuss the war Iraq has imposed on Islamic Iran.

Tehran Departure Reported

GF140451 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 14 May 81

[Text] Bangladesh President Ziaur Rahman and Islamic Conference Secretary General Habib Chatti left Tehran last night.

Ziaur Rahman put forward new proposals of the committee charged with studying the Iraqi war imposed on Iran following his meeting and lengthy talks with President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr.

FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL RECEIVES SYRIAN ENVOY

LD131820 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 May 81

[Text] According to the Central News Bureau, the Syrian ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran has met with the political under secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of our country. At this meeting, the Syrian ambassador asked the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for spiritual aid for Syria. The political undersecretary of the Foreign Affairs Ministry affirmed our country's support for the Arab Deterrent Forces in Lebanon and said:

Iran will not refuse any help toward the liberation of Jerusalem.

BANI-SADR MEETS WITH LIBYAN BUREAU CHIEF 13 MAY

LD131132 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 May 81

[Text] According to a PARS report, Sa'd Mudbir, head of the Libyan People's Bureau in the Islamic Republic of Iran, met President Bani-Sadr this morning. The problems of Islamic countries and relations between both countries were discussed during the meeting. According to PARS, the head of the Libyan People's Bureau in Iran, Sa'd Mudbir, in an interview, gave his views on the Islamic revolution in Iran, the war imposed by the Iraqi regime on Iran and the plots of the United States and Egypt against Libya. [Passage indistinct] fight against the Iraqi people. He asked the Iraqi people to set their fear aside and rid themselves of this mercenary and lacky ruler. He added: The Muslim Iranian nation must pay more attention to the plots against Palestine that are being carried out in southern Lebanon. The Iranian nation must carry out its holy duty on this subject in terms of propaganda.

He strongly attacked the United States and its allies and enumerated the plots by Egypt and the United States against Libya. He said: At present, a U.S. naval force stationed near Libyan waters recently carried out maneuvers. Also, 90,000 Egyptian soldiers are stationed along the Libyan-Sudanese border.

In conclusion, Sa'd Mudbir stressed that the Libyan people had been and would continue to be a supporter of the Islamic revolution of Iran, a defender of its national integrity and would strongly oppose anyone who intended to deal the slightest blow against Iran.

MAJLIS STATEMENT SUPPORTS LEBANESE PEOPLE

GF140751 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 14 May 81

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran has reaffirmed its support for the heroic Lebanese people in strengthening the unity of an independent and free Lebanon and in achieving final victory over imperialism and Zionism. This came in a statement addressed by the Majlis Foreign Affairs Committee to the fraternal Lebanese people yesterday. The statement lauds the Lebanese people's heroic stand on and courageous resistance to the barbaric attacks of the Zionist entity.

The statement adds: While waging a heroic struggle against the superpowers' hegemony and their agents, the Iranian people firmly believe in the common destiny they share with the Lebanese people's struggle, particularly in southern Lebanon, and with the heroic Palestinian people. On the basis of their Islamic mission, the Muslim Iranian people consider war for the cause of freedom everywhere as their war.

The statement of the Majlis Foreign Affairs Committee adds: The primary struggle of the Islamic Republic of Iran is aimed at eradicating the roots of aggression and chaos in the region represented by the Zionist entity. The Iraqi regime's aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran has hampered Iran in carrying out this Islamic mission.

YAZDI ON RESULTS OF 3-MAN COMMITTEE SESSION

LD140704 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 13 May 81

[Interview with Mahammad Yazdi, spokesman for the 3-man committee for resolving differences among Iranian leaders, by an unidentified Central News Bureau correspondent on 13 May--recorded]

[Excerpts] [Yazdi] Today's session [of the 3-man committee] was devoted to a review of newspapers.

Following both the warning we gave to newspaper proprietors and the talks we had with all of them, a detailed review was done for the first time. Tonight, we formally announce the results of this review. Among all the newspapers and publications, unfortunately ARMAN-E MELLAT, whose stand is clear to everybody, has made more insults against and has shown more contempt for the country's authorities than other newspapers. It has even compared the present regime to the former regime, saying that it is worse than the former one. The committee, having submitted the documents to the prosecutor's office, has seriously asked the office to make the necessary decisions and take the necessary action.

The next one is the National Front newspaper, which has also insulted and shown contempt for the authorities and has published information causing divisions and disorder. There have been materials in the various issues of the newspaper ENQELAB-E ESLAMI that have provoked schisms; even in today's issue we see a big headline on the top half of the front page quoting a telegram. This seems to be an unsuitable thing to do.

There was also an article in the newspaper KEYHAN quoting Cologne radio. In the committee's opinion, the use of quotations on issues in this way is unsuitable. And of course the way the newspaper AZADEGAN presents its headlines can result in undesirable interpretations.

We appeal to these newspapers with large circulations, which are sent all over the country and are read by people, to be more careful and observant regarding our philosophy, our situation and the imam's order, so that we will not have to take further action. I hope all the gentlemen of the press will observe the issues. Thank you.

YAZDI, ESHRAQI MEET WITH BANI-SADR, RAJA'I

LD140900 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 14 May 81

[Text] PARS reports that Yazdi, representative of the chiefs of the judiciary, legislative and executive branches in the three-man mediation committee, held a meeting with the president last night. At the end of this meeting, Mr Yazdi said: I had discussions with Mr Bani-Sadr on certain issues. We decided to continue with the rest of the problems on another occasion.

He described this discussion as a prelude to ending some clashes among officials.

According to this report, Mr Eshraqi, the president's representative in the three-man committee, also met and conferred with Prime Minister Raja'i at 2030 yesterday.

PRIME MINISTER MEETS WITH KHOMEYNI 13 MAY

LD131132 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 May 81

[Excerpt] Supreme Court President Beheshti, Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, and Minister of Industries and Mines Nematzadeh were received this morning by Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

At the end of this meeting, a PARS correspondent asked the prime minister about the issues raised with the imam. He said: I went to see the imam to submit a report on the country's general issues. He added: I also went to see him, accompanied by brother Nematzadeh, minister of industries and mines, to give explanations concerning the Talbot contract [to supply cars to Iran for assembly], which has been discussed for some time.

The prime minister finally said: The imam recommended that we inform the public of the situation so that if there were any ambiguities in this respect, they might be clarified.

BEHESHTI ON APPOINTMENT OF JUSTICE MINISTER

LD131358 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 May 81

[Interview with Ayatollah Mohammad Hoseyn Beheshti, leader of the Islamic Republican Party and president of the Iranian Supreme Court, with unidentified radio correspondent, following his weekly press conference on 13 May; place not given--recorded]

[Excerpt] [Question] Bearing in mind that under the present circumstances it is necessary to implement Islamic laws and to substitute them for the former laws, what bills have been drawn up by the Supreme Judicial Council and sent to the government for submission to the Majlis?

[Answer] We have submitted many bills; unfortunately, not one of them has been approved and returned to us. Nevertheless, we are still busy preparing other bills. One important issue about sending the bills to the government and the Majlis is that, according to the Constitution, the minister of justice should be the intermediary for these things. He should take the draft bills from the Supreme Judicial Council to the government and from there again to the Majlis. For a long time, we have been introducing people--three--for the post of minister of justice. Prime Minister Raja'i has also approved one of them. Now, the president should express his opinion about that person and submit his views to the government so that the minister of justice may be approved by the Majlis. We hope that this will be done as soon as possible so that this process concerning the bills may become more normal. Of course, we submit those necessary legal measures through the Majlis deputies in the form of deputies' bills. During the past few days, we submitted some bills--I mean legal measures--to the deputies so that they can submit them to the Majlis in the form draft bills. We hope the Majlis can discuss them speedily and actively and amend what needs to be amended so that they can be returned to the judiciary, because as long as these new bills are not approved, the genuine, revolutionary steps that are expected of the judiciary will not be possible. Whatever the judicial system does should be based upon laws, laws that have been approved by the Majlis. In any case, we expect that through fruitful cooperation among the judicial, executive and the legislative branches, we can work more in the service of the people.

[Tehran International Service in Arabic at 0400 GMT on 14 May reports on Behesti's 13 May press conference. The report says: "Referring to the results of the nonaligned delegation's mission regarding the Iraqi war imposed on the Islamic Republic of Iran, Supreme Court President Beheshti said: Our people have declared their conditions for ending the fighting on the basis of their Islamic and revolutionary strength. It is now up to the aggressor enemy to end his savage attacks on residential areas, to put an end to his assistance to oppressive arrogance, imperialism and international Zionism and to desist from shedding the blood of Muslims to satisfy the wishes of his masters, the leaders of infidelity and injustice." The report goes on to note: "Regarding Iranian-French relations in light of Francois Mitterrand's election as French president, Beheshti said: We shall establish our relations with France following an appraisal that will be more precise than what the new French president will do in practice. Experience has shown us that the slogans advocated during an election cannot form a basis for future appraisals. We hope that at this stage of change the French people will be more prepared to confront all arrogant and imperialist policies and prevent their capabilities from being frozen."]

COUNCIL OF GUARDIANS MEETS, DISCUSSES CONSTITUTION

GF131509 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 May 81

[Text] According to the Central News Bureau, the Council of Guardians met this morning.

During this meeting, (?Articles) 77 and 125 of the Constitution--which deal with international treaties and agreements--were discussed. This discussion will be continued at the next meeting.

SUNNI CLERGYMAN ASSASSINATED IN SARAVAN

LD131226 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 May 81

[Text] The Central News Bureau regrets to report from Zahedan that brother Mowlavi Feyz Mohammad Hoseynbor, one of the committed Sunni clergymen, was martyred in Saravan the night before last by a group of persons deceived by the East and West. Mowlavi Hoseynbor was a prominent personality among the Sunni clergymen who relentlessly struggled against agent feudal lords and small groups. His pure soul has watered the tree of revolution. The martyrdom of struggling clergyman Mowlavi Feyz Mohammad Hoseynbor by small groups affiliated with the East and West proves that the counterrevolutionaries and agents of U.S. imperialism consider Islam's committed clergy, Shi'ite or Sunni, an obstacle to their interests. Thus, by using the ploy or causing division between Shi'ite and Sunni brothers, or by assassinating committed clergymen, they intend to bring their evil plans to fruition. The Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran congratulates and consoles the imam of the nation and all clergymen, especially Zahedan's Sunni clerical society, for the martyrdom of Mowlavi Feyz Mohammad Hoseynbor.

ISLAMIC REVOLUTION GUARDS COMMUNIQUE ON FIGHTING

LD132230 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 13 May 81

[Communique from the Iranian Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. We begin with the memory of those dear ones who are ardently giving up their lives in the Karbala of Islamic Iran. The glorious 7th day of martyrdom and their rejoining the supreme God coincide with tomorrow.

A report on part of the operations during the past 2 days by the combatants of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps on the battlefronts of faith against blasphemy is as follows:

A. The southern fronts:

1. Darkhovin: Following joint operations by our brothers from the Airborne Division and the Guards Corps, one tank of the forces of blasphemy was destroyed and more than six loaders, one troop carrier, one (?armored) personnel carrier and one antiaircraft gun of the Saddam forces were destroyed. During these operations, our brother guards, using a helicopter of the Airborne Division, heroically landed amid enemy servicemen, captured some of the mercenary Saddam's troops and then moved back to their own base.

2. Dezful: In the Salih Mushattat region, thanks to our brothers' mortar fire, one tank of the mercenaries was destroyed. On the Riqabiyah front, our brother guards succeeded in destroying another tank and in killing enemy servicemen.

3. Abadan: The guards corps' mortar-launching unit opened heavy fire on the Fao oil installation and jetty. As a result, heavy losses and casualties were inflicted on the remaining part of the enemy's industrial installation.

4. The occupied sector of Khuninshahr: Thanks to mortar fire by the revolution guards on the occupied sector of Khuninshahr, two of the Saddam forces' machinegun emplacements were destroyed and four Ba'thist mercenary forces were killed or wounded.

B. The western region:

1. The Maymak front: Thanks to fire by the heroes of the Islamic Revolution Corps, one tank of the Saddam aggressors was destroyed. In addition, six mortar launchers and one cannon of the forces of balsphemy were destroyed in these operations.

2. Following a counterattack by the aggressor Ba'thist troops against the (?Asun) Heights, the forces of Islam's crushing retaliation succeeded in killing more than 64 mercenaries and destroying 2 vehicles belonging to the infidel army. During these operations, arms and ammunition were captured by our forces from the aggressors.

3. Since 21 April 1981, 17 duped members of the armed outlaw minigroups have surrendered to the forces of righteousness.

[Signed] The Central Staff Command Public Relations Office of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF ISSUES COMMUNIQUE 501

LD131834 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 May 81

[Communique 501 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In his exalted name. The fruitful, combatant sons of our justice-seeking and freedom-loving nation, armed with their profound faith, are continuing to battle against the enemy forces. Here are some of the measures and actions taken by the heroes of the Islamic Army during the past 24 hours:

A. The southern fronts: An exchange of artillery and mortar fire between our forces and Saddam's mercenaries continued throughout the southern fronts. On the Ahvaz-Khuninshahr axis, the valiant pilots of the Airborne Division directed their intense fire at enemy positions and servicemen. As a result, 16 enemy servicemen were annihilated and 6 vehicles, 1 personnel carrier, 1 truck, 1 antiaircraft cannon of Saddam's army were destroyed. During these operations, seven Iraqi servicemen were also captured by our forces. On the Abadan front, thanks to the firing by the forces of the Islamic Army on enemy positions, one enemy vehicle, two assembly points, four ammunition dumps, one concrete bunker, one trench, one ammunition tent of the aggressors were set ablaze and destroyed. In the meantime, enemy firing on residential districts in Abadan resulted in losses and casualties in these districts.

During other operations, thanks to our artillery fire, part of Fao's oil installations were set ablaze and damaged. In Dezful, thanks to mortar fire by our combatants on enemy positions, two enemy tanks were damaged and some aggressor servicemen were killed. On one of the fronts in that region, the defenders of the Islamic revolution succeeded in destroying 1 ammunition dump, 2 tanks, 1 cannon, 1 heavy machinegun, 10 enemy servicemen and frustrated their movements.

By firing several rockets yesterday at Dezful's residential areas, the Iraqi mercenaries inflicted losses on the population of that heroic city. As a result of artillery fire by the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraqi Army positions on the bank of the (Arvand Rud) came under fire and the enemy suffered losses and casualties. We have no accurate information as to the Iraqi Army's logistical losses and casualties in the area.

B. The western fronts: Firing continued in most of the western fronts and our forces subjected enemy positions in (Biyarah), Iraq, to intense artillery fire. As a result, 3 enemy cannons, 10 military vehicles and 1 ammunition dump of the Saddam army were destroyed in the area and a group of his mercenaries were either killed or wounded.

On the (Atun) Heights, during close fighting between our combatant forces and enemy servicemen, Saddam's forces suffered casualties--10 killed and over 30 wounded. The rest, after leaving behind their equipment, group and individual installations, disappeared from these heights. In the (Wali 'Abidin), three enemy tanks came under artillery fire from our combatants and were destroyed. In (Halabdagh), some brave servicemen of the Islamic Army, in hand-to-hand fighting, succeeded in killing 10 men. In Gilan-e Gharb, our artillery fired on enemy positions and six enemy mortars, one cannon and one tank of the aggressors were destroyed. In (Maymak) a sporadic exchange of fire was in progress. In Mehran, one enemy personnel carrier hit a mine laid by our combatants. As a result, the vehicle was destroyed and its personnel were killed. In Dehloran, two enemy ammunition dumps were exploded by our forces and one enemy cannon and a vehicle were destroyed. In Sar Dasht, an Iraqi civilian gave himself up to the forces of Islam and in Marivan, two Iraqi soldiers sought asylum. On the whole, 17 Iraqi military personnel and civilians have sought asylum from the Islamic Republic of Iranian authorities during the past 3 days. On 11 May, four of our dear combatants from the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran were martyred on the country's southern and western warfronts and by their own choice found an everlastingly beautiful resting place on the side of the martyrs of Islam.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

[Tehran Domestic Service in Persian carries another item at 1630 GMT on 13 May noting that "throughout yesterday and today, the combatants of Islam inflicted heavy losses and casualties on the mercenaries of the blasphemous Saddam in the occupied zone in Khuninshahr, on the other side of Arvand Rud, inside Iraqi territory, and on the Abadan firing range." The item goes on to note that "last night, the Revolution Guards of the Islamic Revolution Committee of Abadan, with the cooperation of the brave personnel of the navy, fired at the positions of blasphemous Saddam's mercenaries on the other side of Arvand Rud inside Iraqi territory and killed some of them. Two Kalasnikov machinegun trenches and two concrete trenches belonging to the enemy were destroyed."]

KURDISH LEADER QASSEMLU CONGRATULATES MITTERRAND

TA121554 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian to Iran 1315 GMT 12 May 81

[Telegram to Francois Mitterrand from Dr 'Abdorrahman Qassemlu, secretary general of the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran, issued on 11 May--announcer-read]

[Text] Dear Comrade Francois Mitterrand: On behalf of the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran and all the people of Kordestan, we sincerely congratulate you, the French Socialist Party and all the French people on your election as president of France. We hope that this choice will not only be a source of considerable transformations in French society for the benefit of workers, democratic freedoms and social progress, but that at the international level it will place France on the side of both socialist and democratic forces and the liberation struggles of all oppressed masses. Our party and the Kurdish people are very pleased that the French Socialist Party under your leadership has always supported the just struggles of the Kurdish people and has openly declared this support at the [word indistinct] of socialism. We are confident that cooperation between the French Socialist Party and the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran will expand still further in the future, and that (?following) your election to the French Presidency, both the French nation and government will actively support the struggle of the Kurdish people for democracy in Iran and self-rule in Iranian Kordestan.

We wish you health and success in serving the French people, world peace and friendship [words indistinct].

[Signed] The Central Committee of the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran, Dr 'Abdorrahman Qassemlu, 11 May 1981

NEPAL

ELECTION RESULTS REPORTED AMID TAMPERING CHARGES

BK140749 Hong Kong AFP in English 0726 GMT 14 May 81

[Text] Katmandu, 14 May (AFP)--About 400 people staged a demonstration here last evening strongly protesting alleged "irregulatities" in vote counting and tampering of the ballot boxes in Katmandu District in the May 9 election for the National Panchayat.

Police used charged [as received] the demonstrators who raised slogans such as "down with the tampering of ballot boxes" and "Down with irregularities in the election". They also raised slogans demanding cancellation of the Katmandu District election and the holding of fresh elections.

Earlier in the afternoon, 25 of the 34 candidates contesting the two seats of the National Panchayat claimed at a press conference that several of the seals on the ballot boxes were broken and several ballot papers were found neatly folded in bunches.

Sources close to the election officer said that the claim of the candidates (who were trailing far behind) about tampering of the ballot boxes and irregularities in vote counting could not be accepted. If they have any doubts or claim, they could go to the court, the sources added.

Meanwhile, according to published results, of 39 of the total 112 National Panchayat seats this morning, Home Minister Nava Raj Subedi has secured a sweeping majority of votes from his home town Ramechhap District Constituency.

Two other Cabinet colleagues of Prime Minister Thapa, Damber Bahadur Malla and Marich Man Singh, have also won seats. But the majority of the candidates who won are those who were not directly supported by the prime minister.

In Katmandu District, Mrs Nani Mainya Kahal, 39, won with an absolute majority of over 55,500 votes, the highest figure so far obtained by a candidate and she was closely followed by former Home Minister Jog Hemar Shrestha.

However, none of the persons declared elected so far is a viable candidate to challenge Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa in the National Assembly for the country's highest executive post for the next five years, observers here say.